

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of a protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer in the form of it's a aqueous dispersions or of its water-redispersible powder[[s]], said polymer comprising a homo- or copolymer[[s]] of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of optionally branched alkyl carboxylic acids having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms, (meth)acrylic esters of alcohols having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms, vinylaromatics, olefins, dienes, and vinyl halides wherein said polymer is prepared by emulsion polymerization or suspension polymerization in the presence of a protective-colloid and drying of the polymer dispersion thus obtained after addition of further protective colloid, wherein partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers with an ethylene content of from 1 to 15 mol%, with a degree of hydrolysis DH of the vinyl acetate units of $80 \text{ mol \%} < \text{DH} < 95 \text{ mol \%}$, and with a Höppler viscosity, in 4 % by weight aqueous solution, of from 2 to 30 mPas, as measured by the Höppler method at 20°C, according to DIN 53015, ~~are present~~ are used as protective colloids.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 1, wherein the degree of hydrolysis DH of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers is from 85 to 90 mol%.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 1, wherein the ethylene content of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers is from 1 to 5 mol%.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 2, wherein the ethylene content of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers is from 1 to 5 mol%.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 1, wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the base polymer.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 2, wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the base polymer.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 3, wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the base polymer.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 4, wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the base polymer.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 1, wherein the selection of monomer and the selection of the parts by weight of any comonomers for the base polymer is such that the base polymer has a glass transition temperature Tg of from -50°C to +50°C.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer process~~ of claim 1, wherein from 0.05 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the base polymer, of auxiliary monomers are also copolymerized.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1, comprising polymerizing by an emulsion polymerization process ~~or a suspension polymerization process, and where partially hydrolyzed vinylacetate-ethylene copolymers are the sole protective colloids employed. the base polymer is in the form of redispersible polymer powders, drying the resultant aqueous dispersion.~~

12. (Currently Amended) In a formulation comprising an inorganic, hydraulically setting binder and a protective-colloid-stabilized polymer, the improvement comprising selecting as at least one protective-colloid-stabilized polymer, ~~the~~ a protective colloid stabilized polymer prepared by the process of claim 1.

13. (Original) The formulation of claim 12, which is selected from the group consisting of construction adhesives, plasters, renders, trowelling compositions, floor-filling compositions, jointing mortars, and paints.

14. (Currently Amended) A coating composition or adhesive containing, as the sole binder, the protective-colloid-stabilized polymer prepared by the process of claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition for the coating or binding of textiles or paper containing, as the sole binder, the protective-colloid-stabilized polymer prepared by the process of claim 1.